(c) whether Government have taken up this matter with the U.K. Government and if so, what has been their response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) During Prime Minister Junejo's recent visit to the UK, the purchase of type 23 frigates by Pakistan was considered, but the deal was neither announced nor signed. It is believed to be still under negotiation. Government are monitoring all such developments which have a bearing on the country's security.

Export of Iron ore

1038. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron ore exported to Japan during the years 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(b) the percentage of iron ore exported from Bailadila to Japan during 1984-85 and 1985-86 out of the total export;

(c) the quantum of steel imported from Japan during the above period;

(d) whether Japan is the only country imported iron ore from India; and

(e) if not, what are the names of the other countries importing iron ore from India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The quantum of iron ore (excluding iron ore concentrates) exported to Japan during 1984-85 and 1985-86 was 16.596 million tonnes and 18.469 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The percentage of iron ore exported from Bailadila to Japan during 1984-85 and 1985-86 was 33.07 per cent and 29.57 per cent respectively.

(c) During 1984-85, 510,000 tonnes of steel was imported from Japan. Statistics for 1985-86 have not been compiled so far.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Besides Japan, other countries importing iron ore from India are Romania, S. Korea, Taiwan, Italy, DPRK, China, GDR, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Czechoslovakia, etc.

Import and Export of Sugar

1039. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar imported from different countries during the last financial year and also the quantum exported during the same period;

(b) the price of sugar per metric tonne in the country and the rate at which it was sold in foreign countries; and

(c) the amount of money spent in the purchase of sugar and the amount of foreign exchange earned through the export of sugar during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) As per provisional estimates, the import of sugar during 1986-87 was of the order of 8 lakh tonnes from various sources. The quantity of sugar exported during this period was 0.34 lakh tonnes.

(b) The retail price of levy sugar distributed through fair price shops was Rs. 4.80 per Kg. from 1-12-1985 to 14-12,1986 and Rs. 4.85 per Kg. from 15-12-86 onwards. The free sale price of sugar fluctuates from day to day and varies from place to place.

The average price of sugar sold in foreign countries during 1986-87 was Rs. 5463 per metric tonne (FOB).